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nal inventor of the plan. But though it answers very well for boats, it does not follow that it would do for ships; the difference between the labour of bending three or four inch planks and half inch boards, as well as the cost, is indeed so vastly great, as to show at once the inexpediency of the latter application.

Files and other instruments for various uses, made of stone ware, by G. Cumberland, esq.

Phil. Journal, vol. 25, p. 257.

Mr. Cumberland having found the wear of steel files to be very expensive in shaping some substances; it occurred to him, when considering what might be the best remedy, that as stone-ware is so hard as to blunt files, files might be as well made of stone-ware.

The first use he made of this suggestion was, to fold up in muslin, cambric, and Irish linen, separate pieces of wet clay, forcing them by the pressure of the hand into the interstices of the threads, so as to obtain a correct mould, on divesting them of the covering.

These Mr. Cumberland had well baked, and immediately found he had procured an entire new species of file capable even of destroying steel; and extremely useful in cutting glass, polishing and rasping wood, ivory, and all sorts of metals.

Mr. Cumberland having since reflected, that in glass grinding (the stones for which come from the north and are very expensive) in flattening metallic mirrors, laying mezzotints grounds, and a number of operations that require unexpensive friction, these stone-ware graters, may ultimately become very useful. Mr. Cumberland thinks this invention the more important, as in all operations of grinding, a great deal of manual labour must first be bestowed on the tool, whereas by this method it may be moulded in an instant, if a press is used as in pipe-making, and the expense is so vastly inferior to that incurred in constructing even the cheapest file.

Mr. Nicholson, in a note on this paper, states, that this ingenious invention promises to be of consider-

able use in the arts. The abrasion of surfaces is performed, either by a toothed tool as in filing, rasping, &c. or by a grinder in which cutting or hard particles are bedded with considerable firmness in a softer mass; or by scowering, polishing, &c. in which hard particles are more or less slightly retained in a soft or tenacious substance. Mr. Cumberland's instruments appear to promise great utility in the first and last of these processes that is, they may be used either with or without a fretting powder.

On a species of moss proposed as a substitute for wool, &c. in stuffing beds and furniture, by M. Parmentier.

Annales de Chimie v. 25, p. 175.

The dearth of wool, and more especially the property it has of imbibing putrid miasmata, and propagating contagious disorders, suggested the idea of supplying its place in beds by the *hypnum crispum*, L. a kind of moss of a moderate length, and of a somewhat fragrant smell. Mr. Isengard has sent to the society of Encouragement a specimen of this moss taken from a mattress, that has been in use for some years, with a paper in which he relates the methods of preparing it for domestic purposes.

This moss may be met with in Italy in every wood, particularly on beech trees; it is gathered in August and September; and is beaten like flocks; it does not form any lumps like them, or retain moisture, is little liable to decay, and costs only the price of the labour, so that four mattresses made with this moss will cost less than one of wool. It is only necessary to dry it in the shade to preserve its fragrance. No animal moisture produces any fermentation in this moss, as it does in wool; but lest wet should occasion it to germinate, it is recommended to steep it in lime-water, which destroys its power of vegetation.

Remarks... The fact mentioned in the above paper may be of use to the poor in this country; where doubtless moss may be procured fit for beds as well as elsewhere. Mr. Parmentier or Mr. Isengard, have not